

## Scranton Times-Tribune (12-30)

EPA: Dimock water supplies 'merit further consideration'

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Published: December 30, 2011

Federal environmental regulators are reopening their review of Dimock Twp. water supplies after recently released tests of the water wells taken by a natural gas drilling contractor were found to "merit further consideration."

Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are in Dimock today to visit residents whose water supplies were found by state regulators to have been tainted by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp.'s Marcellus Shale drilling operations.

After a preliminary review of results from water tests taken earlier by the state, Cabot and other outside firms, the EPA wrote to the residents on Dec. 2 to say the information they had gathered "does not indicate that the well water presents an immediate health threat to users."

But in an information sheet provided to residents during visits today and yesterday, the EPA wrote that it "has recently received additional Cabot data from residents that merit further investigation." The EPA is now "concerned about" potential gaps in water sampling and test results, the number of water supplies potentially affected, if residents that need them have alternate sources of fresh drinking water, and if residents have any more data to share.

View the information sheet [HERE](#)

The agency is also surveying residents about the depth, age and history of their private drinking water wells.

The information will be used by the EPA to decide what steps, if any, the agency will take next in its investigation, including possibly taking its own samples from the residents' drinking water wells, according to the fact sheet.

A Cabot spokesman did not immediately return a request for comment. The company has said it is not responsible for methane and other contaminants in Dimock water supplies, which its studies show occur naturally in the region.

Check back for updates.

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/epa-dimock-water-supplies-merit-further-consideration-1.1251334#ixzz1i4C45s4W>

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